

large proportion of those that were shot were by no means in good plumage, a variable number of the quills of the wings and tail, and sometimes the feathers of the crest, and frequently those of the neck and breast, being only in process of growth. So marked was this feature in October 1888, along the Abary creek, that I was inclined to regard that season as a moulting-period ('Timehri,' vol. ii., new series, 1888, p. 364); since then, however, I have found them in very much the same condition in July 1889 and January 1890.

This is all that I am at present able to furnish about the habits and breeding of these birds; but I trust soon to be able to offer some additional notes on a few points that have remained untouched owing to the want of definite information.

XXIX.—*On the Range of the Guácharo* (*Steatornis caripensis*)
in South America. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.

THE range of the very peculiar and isolated bird-type, *Steatornis*, in South America is much wider than is usually represented. Some time ago I made some investigations on this point which I only partly published (see P. Z. S. 1866, p. 130). It may save future writers some trouble if I give a few further remarks on the subject, principally taken from my former notes.

The Guácharo was originally discovered by Humboldt and Bonpland in 1799 in the cavern of Caripé, in the province of Cumaná, Venezuela*. L'Herminier, in 1834, obtained specimens from the same locality, and published an excellent article† on the bird. Because L'Herminier lived in Guadeloupe, Gray, in his 'Genera of Birds' (i. p. 44), gave that island also as one of the localities of the Guácharo. But this was a great error.

* See Humboldt, 'Journ. de Physique,' liii, p. 57 (1801).

† N. Ann. d. Mus. iii, p. 321 (1834); id. Compt. Rend. iii, p. 67 (1836); id. Ann. Sc. Nat. sér. 2, vi, p. 60.

Humboldt also met with a nocturnal bird in the caverns of Icononzo or Pandi, near Bogotá, where it is called Cáca; and Roulin, who visited its breeding-places in the same caverns in 1827, showed that this bird was the *Steatornis* (Compt. Rend. iii. p. 94). Roulin also met with *Steatornis* in the "Quebradanegra" or "Quebradahonda" of Guaduas, in an adjoining canton of Bogotá.

The occurrence of *Steatornis* in Trinidad was first made known by Latham, who described it anew as the "Trinidad Goatsucker" (Gen. Hist. B. vii. p. 365), from observations and a specimen furnished to him by Mr. J. V. Thompson. In 1838 M. Hautessier visited the caverns which it inhabits on the sea near the Boca del Drago, at the north-west, corner of that island*, and obtained specimens of the bird and its nest and eggs (see Compt. Rend. vii. p. 474 1838; and Rev. Zool. 1838, p. 164). Another Guácharo cave in Trinidad was visited by Mr. E. C. Taylor in 1863 (Ibis, 1864, p. 88), and Sir Arthur Gordon (Governor of the island) actually brought a specimen of the bird alive to the Zoological Society's Gardens in 1869 (see P. Z. S. 1869, p. 467).

Besides the cavern of Caripé in Venezuela, the Guácharo is also found at Copas, north-west of Merida, in the ravine crossed by the Puente Natural of Copas, as testified by Goering (P. Z. S. 1870, p. 779).

In British Guiana the Guácharo occurs in a cave near the Indian village of Ackar, on the Upper Mazaruni River (Brown, 'Canoe and Camp Life in Brit. Guiana,' p. 386), and in the vertical rocks of Roraima (Salvin, 'Ibis,' 1885, p. 439).

In the U. S. of Colombia, besides the two localities indicated by Roulin, the Guácharo is also found in the chasm called "Hoyo del Aire," fourteen miles N.N.E. of Velez (Holton's 'New Grenada,' New York, 1857, p. 263), and near Sta. Elena, in the State of Antioquia (Sci. et Salv. P. Z. S. 1879, p. 532).

* See also 'Report U.S. Fish Commission, 1884,' p. 90, for an account of a visit to these caves (*cf.* Ibis, 1887, p. 477).

In Ecuador Buckley obtained an example of *Steatornis* at Sarayacu, on the Bobonassa, a confluent of the Pastaza.

In Peru *Steatornis* was first noticed by Prof. Steere (P. Z. S. 1878, p. 139). It was subsequently found by Raimondi in the Grotto of Niñabamba, in the department of Caxamarca, and at Tingo Maria, in the department of Huanaco. The well-known collectors Jelski and Stolzmann found it also in other localities in the departments of Junin and the Amazonas (Taczanowski, Orn. Pér. i. p. 200). M. Stolzmann has published an interesting paper on this subject (Bull. Soc. Zool. France, v. p. 198).

It appears therefore that *Steatornis* occurs in various localities in Trinidad, Venezuela, Colombia, Eastern Ecuador, and Peru, where there are caverns suitable to its extraordinary mode of life and habits.

I cannot ascertain that Humboldt ever gave the name *Caprimulgus steatornis* to the Guácharo, as is commonly alleged*. In the volume of the 'Journal de Physique,' usually quoted to this effect, he merely refers to it as a species of *Caprimulgus*†.

The following list embraces, I believe, the principal references to this bird:—

Caprimulgus, sp., Humboldt, Journ. de Physique, liii. p. 57 (1801); Humb. et Bonpland, Voy. aux Rég. Equinoct. Obs. Astron. i. p. 295 (1810).

Steatornis caripensis, Humboldt, Bull. Soc. Philom. Paris, sér. 3, xvii. p. 51 (1817).

Trinidad Goatsucker, Lath. Gen. Hist. B. vii. p. 365 (1823).

Nyctibius steatornis, Stephens, Gen. Zool. xiii. pt. 2, p. 91 (1825).

* See Gray and Mitchell, 'Genera of Birds,' i. p. 44, and elsewhere.

† "Cette même roche calcaire sert de base à une autre plus neuve, très-blanche, très-dense, très-fossile, pleine de cavernes (Cueva del Guácharo), remplie de millions d'oiseaux (une nouvelle espèce de *Caprimulgus* qui donnent une graisse très-usitée ici;—Cueva de S. Juan, Cueva del Cuchivano), quelquefois poreuse, comme celle de la Franconie, formant des rochers de figure grotesque (Morros de S. Juan, de S. Sébastien)." — HUMBOLDT, Journ. de Physique, de Chimie, d'Hist. Nat. Paris, liii. p. 57 (1801).

Steatornis caripensis, Humb. et Bonpl. Recueil d'Observ. Zool. ii. p. 141, pl. xlv. (1833).

Steatornis caripensis, L'Herminier, Nouv. Ann. Muséum d'Hist. Nat. Paris, iii. p. 321, pl. xv. (1834).

Steatornis caripensis, L'Herminier, Comptes Rendus, iii. p. 67 (1836).

Steatornis caripensis, L'Herminier, Ann. d. Sci. Nat. sér. 2, vi. p. 60 (1836).

Steatornis caripensis, L'Herminier, Comptes Rendus, vii. p. 474 (1838).

Steatornis caripensis, Hautessier, Rev. Zool. i. p. 164 (1838).

Steatornis caripensis, Müller, Monatsb. Berl. Acad. 1841, p. 172.

Steatornis caripensis, Müller, Archiv für Anat. 1842, p. 1.

Steatornis caripensis, Des Murs, Rev. Zool. vi. p. 33 (1843).

Steatornis caripensis, Funck, Bull. l'Acad. R. Bruxelles, xi. pt. 2, p. 371 (1844).

Steatornis caripensis, Gray, Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 44 (1846).

Steatornis caripensis, L'Herminier, Rev. et Mag. Zool. sér. 2, i. p. 321 (1849).

Steatornis caripensis, Scl. P. Z. S. 1855, p. 135 (Bogotá).

Steatornis caripensis, Blanchard, Ann. d. Sci. Nat. sér. 4, xi. p. 105, pl. iv. fig. 30 (1859).

Steatornis caripensis, Des Murs, Ool. Orn. p. 260 (1860).

Steatornis caripensis, Taylor, Ibis, 1864, p. 88.

Steatornis caripensis, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1866, pp. 125, 130, 145.

Steatornis caripensis, Léotaud, Ois. Trinidad, p. 65 (1866).

Steatornis caripensis, Koenig-Warthausen, J. f. O. 1868, p. 384.

Steatornis caripensis, Scl. P. Z. S. 1868, p. 73 (egg).

Steatornis caripensis, Scl. et Salv. P. Z. S. 1868, p. 165 (Caripé).

Steatornis caripensis, Goering, Vargasia, i. p. 124 (1869).

Steatornis caripensis, Scl. P. Z. S. 1869, p. 467.

Steatornis caripensis, Scl. et Salv. P. Z. S. 1870, p. 779 (Merida).

Steatornis caripensis, Garrod, P. Z. S. 1873, pp. 463, 526, 630.

Steatornis caripensis, Murie, Ibis, 1873, p. 81.

Steatornis caripensis, Garrod, P. Z. S. 1875, p. 344.

Steatornis caripensis, Brown, Canoe & Camp Life in British Guiana, p. 386 (1876).

Steatornis caripensis, Scl. et Salv. P. Z. S. 1878, p. 139 (Caxamarca).

Steatornis caripensis, Scl. et Salv. P. Z. S. 1879, p. 532 (Antioquia).

Steatornis caripensis, Taczanowski, P. Z. S. 1880, p. 208.

Steatornis caripensis, Newton, Enc. Brit. xi. p. 227 (1880).

Steatornis caripensis, Stolzmann, Bull. Soc. Zool. France, v. p. 198 (1880).

Steatornis caripensis, Taczanowski, P. Z. S. 1882, p. 40.

Steatornis caripensis peruvianus, Tacz. P. Z. S. 1885, p. 106.

Steatornis caripensis, Salv. Ibis, 1885, p. 439.

XXX.—*On a new Finch from Midway Island, North Pacific.*

By SCOTT B. WILSON, F.Z.S.

(Plate IX.)

THE specimen from which the present figure is taken was brought by me alive from Honolulu in January 1889.

About March of the preceding year, a small schooner named the 'Mary Böhm' arrived in the Hawaiian Islands from Japan, off the coasts of which country it had been engaged in a fishing venture. Having met with many mis-
haps, the vessel put into port at Midway Island*, where there

* The following extract from the 'North Pacific Directory,' page 867, may be of interest:—

"*Brooks or Midway Islands*.—This atoll is of much more interest than its uninhabited and barren condition would warrant. It was discovered by Captain N. C. Brooks, in the 'Gambia,' July 5th, 1859. He called the two islands *Middlebrook Islands*, and took possession of them for the